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October 27, 1914.

Governor John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I find your letter with Mr. Nelson's on my return to Middlebury. I hope we can use his slate when the time comes.

I have heard from Mr. Collens in reply to the letter which we sent the other day. They are anxious to have us go ahead and install the concrete foundations this fall, so that the detailed drawings may be prepared during the winter and also the material assembled, so that rapid progress can be made in the spring.

In answer to the question about supervision they say that that is one-sixth of the total fee, i.e. 1% of the total cost of the building. They argue strongly that we do not dispense with their supervision. Perhaps I had better quote you just what they say:-

"You ask about the architect supervision. The supervision of the building is about one-sixth the total fee. We are very sorry, however, that this question is brought up. Not from a financial standpoint but because this has been tried once or twice in our office and has never been successful. On such jobs there have always been any number of questions relating to detail, coloring, grading, finish, etc. which have always come up, and which resulted most unsatisfactorily because of the lack of direct supervision. In a monumental building of this character there is no question but what you will find it necessary to call upon us for considerable personal supervision although the structural part can without doubt be taken care of by yourselves. We should be glad to make some arrangement with you by which we would charge independently for every trip that you might find it necessary for us to make, but we strongly

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advise that you reconsider this matter, and allow us to turn over to you a building of which we ourselves would feel in every respect satisfied."

I am inclined to think that Mr. Collens is right about this matter and that we would need him at certain times during the construction. I doubt if he would be obliged to make many trips, perhaps not as many as he has made already in working out the plans. It is true that we could get supervision cheaper as far as strength of construction is concerned, but this is a memorial building, and the beauty and artistic qualities are matters of the first importance. I am inclined to think Rogers would really need the help of the architect in putting through some of the work as it ought to be done. It is of course for you to decide, but I hope you will feel that we can save the money in other things.

I wish very much you would be willing to right away to authorize Rogers to proceed at least with the excavation and foundation. That would be the same whatever we decide on some of these questions, and I have no doubt Rogers would name a figure for that part of the work.

Faithfully yours,